

HOUSE BILL 516  
By Hackworth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-18-101, is amended by inserting the language "and utilities, as defined in § 54-5-802," between the language "planning commissions," and the language "are hereby authorized".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-18-102, is amended by deleting the language "of the local governments" and by substituting instead "of the local governments and utilities".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-18-104, is amended by deleting the language "and local governments" and substituting instead ", local governments and utilities".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, is amended by adding sections 5 through 7 of this act as a new, appropriately designated chapter.

SECTION 5. The department shall incorporate subsurface engineering into the design plans of highway projects in which any highway funds are to be expended. Such incorporation shall include, but is not limited to, the location of all below-ground utilities.

SECTION 6. The department shall include utility relocation costs, whether borne by the state or by the utility, in estimating the total cost of highway projects in which any highway funds are to be expended.

SECTION 7. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the department shall obtain all rights-of-way and easements for required utility relocations during the land acquisition process prior to construction or reconstruction of a highway in which any highway funds are to be expended.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.